



come to the
Rodeo

Watch for
expanded
coverage of the
2001 Rodeo in
the next issue
of BARTalk.

**Attention all
you boat
racers!**

The BART Draggins
are looking to defend
their trophy in August.
Contact Jack Westlie
at ext. 2778, e-mail:
"jwestlie@bart.gov" or
Michael Quintana at
ext. 6142, e-mail:
"mquinta@bart.gov"
Don't delay!

Congratulations to BART Retirees



BART's Annual Retirement Dinner held May 24 honored several employees who recently retired from the District. Congratulations and thanks for many years of dedicated service to: (first row, left to right) Larry Drees, Dick Chase, Shew P. Wong, Joseph Robinson, Ronald Scott, Watt Milintangkur, Dominandor G. Francisco, David Bowman, Carlos Campos, Eldridge Johns and Allan Hom, along with (second row, left to right) Fred Braese, Bill Moore, Charles Brown, Donald Howard, Ronald Edmonson, Franklin Thorne, Donna Marshall, Cathy Pratt, Ollie Ricks, Rich O'Sanna, James Araya, Barbara McCarthy, Maria Tellez, Howard Tse, Raymond Ong, Ronald Urbano and Gene Pasqual. Congratulations also to (third row, left to right) Walter Kawechi, Brian Newlon, Howard Lewis, Andrew Eschen, George Thomas, James Ginsbach, Bill Fleisher, Donald Weldon, Raymond Peterson, Everett Riehl and Fred Simon. **b**

25 Years of Service

Congratulations to BART employees reaching 25 years of service with the District: (left to right) Glenn Roundtree, Ian Hart, Robert B. Scott, Al Castro, Walter Tom, Gretchen Burns, George Ross, Jr., Gladys Maher and Harvard Golden. **b**



"Proud as an Eagle"

A Tribute to Employee Excellence

The Transportation & System Service Department held its first quarterly employee recognition luncheon on May 7 at the Oakland Marriott. General Manager Thomas Margro and Deputy General Manager Dorothy Dugger were among the 120 BART employees, peers, and family in attendance, coming together to honor employee excellence.

"I think it's really fitting that we have a celebration like this for the hard work that our employees do," contributed Tom. "This is a great idea. I think people who have to go out there and work day-to-day with the public and do such a good job should be honored." "I'm really excited about the advent of this awards program to celebrate our success and say thank you," added Dorothy.

Fannie Mackson, Employee Recognition Programs Administrator and Henry Miranda, Manager of Rail Operations Support, served as co-hosts for the event.



Awards were given to the Employees of the Month: Alice Chan, System Service Worker; Luis Buitrago, Station Agent; John Reinig, Train Operator; Mike Rodriguez, System Service Worker; Thomas Williams, Station Agent; Barbara Gemignani, Train Operator; Pedro Banda, System Service Worker; Jill Smith, Station Agent; William Henderson, Train Operator. The Leadership Award was presented to Donald Orth, Sr. Operations Foreworker. The Performance and Learning Team of Terry Adelman, Anita Gonsalves, Lee Kirk, and Yolanda Vega of Training and Development earned the Team Achievement Award. The Eagle Award was bestowed upon Johnnie Evans, Operations Supervisor.

Their peers presented each award recipient with their performance awards and a one-minute video of the recipient in action with commentary. There were several standing ovations, with overwhelming emotions displayed by the recipients and the audience.

The room was filled with the aroma of a delicious meal, floating candles, blue and silver stars, music, and a lot of human warmth.

"The honorees we are recognizing today have demonstrated commitment, courage, and excellence; all characteristics necessary to be the high-performance organization that BART is," stated Al Johnson, Chief Transportation Officer. "The pride, integrity and courage that is demonstrated daily by many of our employees has gotten us where we are and will take us to the next level and beyond."

Thank you and congratulations to all the winners and nominees. **b3**



An Act of Service and Kindness

Trying to get from SFO to Colma to the East Bay at 11:15 pm on a windy Saturday night, Diana Winston, a freelance writer, found herself running. Upon her arrival at Colma, she was faced with the tracks under construction, and taking yet another shuttle to Daly City, where the last train was waiting to transport its passengers.

She arrived at Daly City only to hear that the last train had left. At 1 am, she worried how she would get home. The Station Agent, noticing her dismay, made a phone call. She came back to Diana in disbelief. BART would be returning to pick her up, an unprecedented move. She rode BART to the 16th Street station, where she hopped on the train waiting to take her to the East Bay.

Diana wrote about her adventure, as well as extending her heartfelt thanks to BART. "BART is a class act of service and kindness," said Diana. **b3**

"Strikes and Spares" Scores

The BART bowling league met at the Kentwig Lanes in April. Top games were achieved by Joe Olison with 260 and Kimberly White with 248. The top 5 bowlers included two women, Gwen Bodin and Kimberly White. May bowling was held at Manor Bowl, with Joe Olison repeating his top game performance with a 228 score and Suzanne Hicks with the women's high game of 216, and high series of 631.

New bowlers are always welcome. Please contact Andy Williams at Ext. 5153 or Glenda Olison at Ext. 2794. **b3**



BART Employees Invitation Gold Open

BART held its 7th annual Golf Tournament on May 5 at the Brentwood Golf course. Victoria Palmer again served as the organizer for this popular event. She was ably assisted by her team of committees and volunteers: Dean Leonard, Pat Patubo, Peter Arce, Bill Richards, Matt Burrows, Betty Soo Hoo, Juan Cabarrubias, Edwin Castillo, Rose Sandoval, Eric Thompson, Joe Vela, Al Verduzco, Willie Criner and Kirk Marshall, who produced the banners and signage.

A total of 144 golfers participated in the Open, receiving wonderful entry prizes: hats, sweatshirts, golf balls, golf towels, umbrellas, and sports bags, which were donated by several organizations. As a special treat, Peter Arce, a popular pianist from the Pacific and featured entertainer on the Grand Princess Cruise Lines, presented musical tapes to the first 95 golfers.

Raffle tickets sold for \$1.00 gave those who purchased them a chance to win such fabulous prizes as a Hornblow Yacht Bay cruise and brunch, and free play at several terrific golf courses.

The Rolly Naish Memorial hole-in-one (closest to the hole) trophy was awarded to Bill Burton and Cathy Young. Ralph Weule and Dale Wensler were remembered as well.

Doug McCarrie won the chipping contest, his ball bounced on the pond's surface and landed in the SS Margro inflated boat!

There were seven winners who BEAT the GM at hole #8: David Dahl, Dan Taliarini, Rick Armstrong, Bill Barber, Michael Santos, Malgy Blue Sr., and Darryl Antilla.

First place Gold Medal winners were Frank Helmick, Gordon Libby, Victoria Palmer, and June Rullamas. Second place Silver Medal winners were Kirk Marshall, Joe Wensler, Scott Rodda, and Rick Armstrong. Third place Golf Trophy winners were David Kutrosky, Steve Lee, Don Hammer, and Ed Mcspedon.

Upon completion of the competition, the golfers and their guests entered the beautiful dining room, decorated with BART balloons. They dined on poached Atlantic salmon florentine, grilled chicken breast Marsala, and sliced roast beef champignon, while satisfying their sweet teeth with assorted mousses, freshly baked tarts and




*All Aboard the
"SS Margro"*



Congratulations to the First Place team of (left to right) Gordon Libby, June Rullimas, Victoria R. Palmer and Frank Helmick.

cakes. The winners were announced, and the prizes awarded during this sumptuous feast.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to organize such a wonderful event for BART," says Victoria. "I have enjoyed the experience, and look forward to next year and getting more prizes!"

Thank you Victoria and volunteers. Congratulations for a successful and fun tournament. 



Hats off to Second Place winners (left to right) Joe Wensler, Rick Armstrong and Kirk Marshall. Not pictured Scott Rodda.

Gary Meissenbrink Retiring

After 27 years of service, Gary Meissenbrink will be retiring from his position of Principal computer Systems Engineer this coming July. He has been on leave since March 2001.

In his career with BART, Gary handled some of the most complex system problems. He was (and is) a good programmer, who developed good software code. He was in train control, worked in the Yards, and was a driving force in the District's adoption of modern tools. "He is straight-forward, honest, and got along well with people," says Frank Ruffa, Division Manager, Computer Systems Engineering. "I miss his presence because of who he is. He is a professional colleague and friend."

Gary is a longtime motorcycle rider. He just retired his old Honda Goldwing with 235,000 miles. Recently, he participated on the 3-day Annual Death Valley run with the California Sightseers Motorcycle Club, which organizes monthly group rides for motorcycle enthusiasts. His other hobbies include rebuilding antique tractors, building computers, and restoring cars. He has restored an early model Volvo, the same model used in the old television series "The Saint".

Always riding but never too far away, Gary sends a hello to all his BART friends... happy riding Gary. **b3**



Annual Death Valley Run of the California Sightseers Motorcycle Club

Recently retired BART employee Gary Meissenbrink with fellow members of the California Sightseers Motorcycle Club (left to right) Juliette, Beth, Gail, Marie, and Ellie. **b3**

Passing the Torch

BART'S Special Problems & Rescue ("SPAR") participated in the annual Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run to open the summer Special Olympics, held in Stockton.

This year's participants in the run were Sgt. John Austin, Lieutenant Alan Feia, and Officers Peter Chu, Sheldon Forehand, Keith Garcia, Paul Garcia, Jason Ledford, Eugene Wong, and Alfredo Zamora. They accepted the torch from the San Leandro Police Department, ran the torch for 3 miles, passing the torch to the Alameda Police Department. "This is one of the most rewarding experiences I have," says Sgt. Jerry Dominguez, who drove the patrol car along the Torch Run route. Lieutenant Feia's Jack Russell Terrier Petey scampered along side the officers.

Many years ago, BART Police selected the Special Olympics as its main charity, which is the main charity supported by law enforcement nationwide. Throughout each year, BART Police raise money to sponsor athletes and their participation in the Summer Olympics. They sell T-shirts, participate in the Torch Run, and wait tables or bus dishes in local restaurants as part of Tip-A-Cop.

BART Police will be sponsoring a "Dunk A Cop" booth at the Hayward Zucchini Festival on August 18 and 19, to raise money for next year's Special Olympics.

Remembering...

Hagar Vom Blitsaerd, loyal and trusted canine partner of Officer Michael McLucas, passed away from old age on May 12, 2001. Hagar, a German Shepherd born in Holland, was imported by Whitmer-Tyson Kennels, worked with Michael for 5 years before retiring in 1996. He lived with the McLucas family until his passing. "He was a true friend and great partner and will be deeply missed," remembers Michael. **b3**



For more information, please contact Special Olympics Coordinators Sgt. Andy Alkire at ext. 51437, Sgt. Jerry Dominguez at ext. 51463, or FTO Mike Davis at ext. 51460. "We welcome and appreciate your support for this worthwhile organization," assures Jerry. **b3**

5 Years Perfect Attendance!

Beyond the usual vacation, holiday and comp time, these employees have taken no other time off of their jobs for five years, including sick leave and disability leave. The District recently honored 37 BART employees for "Excellent Attendance."

Congratulations to the following BART employees for five years of Excellent Attendance.



Rick Alfaro



Rodney Barrera



Mario A. Botello



Carlito Cabral



Ted Christian



Calvin Coleman



Rudy Crespo



Ernesto P.
Dandan



Henry De Santos



Verinder Dhesi



Alan Feia



Harley Goldstrom



Terry Green



Martin Gutierrez



Alaric Johnson



Robert Kraft



Steven F. Langner



Ber-Name Lin



Lorne Lucken



Jerry McCleery



Randall D.
McCluney



Karen McDaniel



Kenneth
Nakashima



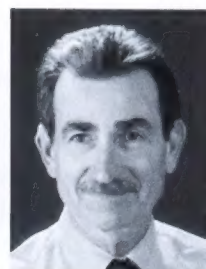
Hal Nelson



Stephen Peery



Anthony R.
Pegram



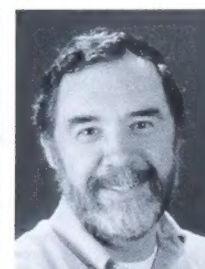
Russell Pillard



Chuck Rae



Michal Settles



John Souza



Michal Tanner



Ann Thornton



Ron Von Krusze



David Walchak



Stephen M.
Williams



Allen Young



Joel Young

Employee Suggestion Awards



Richard Cox, Maintenance Worker III in the Rolling Stock and Shops Department, for his suggestion on modifying the C-Car speedometer's printed circuit boards to prevent heat damage from two resistors, and enable in-house repair of damaged boards, resulting in a savings to the District. For his suggestion, Richard received a cash award of \$150.00 and a letter of appreciation from Tom Margro.

Stu Dancer, Train Operator in the Transportation Department, for his suggestion that a nylon rope be placed in each train cabin to be used for emergency coupling which will allow the operator assistance, and faster coupling. For his suggestion, Stu received a cash award of \$150.00 and a letter of appreciation from Tom Margro.

Colleen McCann, Train Operator, in the Transportation Department, for her suggestion that a flat threaded end-cap used to move the door lockout lever be replaced with a chisel-type head to provide leverage when trying to put the door back on track. This equipment aids the train operator in repairing the door without removing the vehicle from service, thus eliminating some out-of-service time. For her suggestion, Colleen received a cash award of \$150.00 and a letter of appreciation from Tom Margro.

David Mohn, Maintenance Worker III in the Rolling Stock and Shops Department, for his suggestion in modifying auxiliary inverter adapter fixtures to fit both the aux inverter and IVPs base test fixture, providing an alternative method of testing. For his suggestion, David received a cash award of \$150.00 and a letter of appreciation from Tom Margro.

Daniel Monahan, Inspector, Rolling Stock and Shops Department, for his suggestion on the installation of a isolation valve to the air output line of the air compressors to eliminate the need to release all of the air from the system, saving time in repairs, and approximately \$31,110.56 over five-years. For his suggestion, Daniel received a cash award of \$6,577.31 and a letter of recommendation from Tom Margro.

Curtis Norman, Foreperson II in Rolling Stock and Shops Department, for his suggestion that a right-angle connector on Quad and VCR connectors be used, as well as longer cables and the implementation of a mount connection block for the Quad and Monitor output on the recorder. These changes make the camera system more serviceable and easier to troubleshoot. For his suggestion, Curtis received a cash award of \$100.00 and a letter of appreciation from Tom Margro.

James Robinson, Supervising Engineer, Shops and Structures Capital Program Department, for his suggestion that inspection fees be paid by the outside contractors for their own construction work. Previously, the District paid these fees. Upon review and approval, the BART Board of Directors adopted a fee schedule in 1994, resulting in a savings of \$39,343 over five-years. For his suggestion, James received a cash award of \$9,835.75 and a letter of recommendation from Tom Margro.

Robert Rosen, Retired, and Patrick Dullea, Foreworker II in the Rolling Stock and Shops Department, for their recommendation of replacing the cotter pins in the leveling valves connected to the car body, with safety pin P/N to prevent the loss of proper car height and/or a leaning car on account of cotter pin failure. The safety pin provides a more secure joint than the cotter pin. For their suggestion, Robert and Patrick each received a cash award of \$75.00 and a letter of appreciation from Tom Margro.

Bernard "Bud" Thiele Jr. and **Marco Del Mercado**, Maintenance Workers III, Maintenance and Engineering Department, for their suggestion on modifying restroom hardware/locks to comply with the American with Disabilities Act. New pull handles with deadbolts minimize the need for maintenance, with an estimated saving of \$30,200 over a five-year period. For their suggestion, Bud and Marco each received a cash award of \$996.60, and a letter of appreciation from Tom Margro.

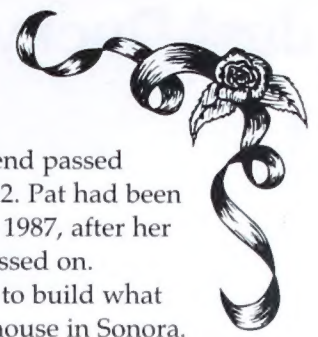
Jeanne Davis-Blair and **Joe Leone**, Communication Specialists in the Transportation Department, for their suggestion that a talk group be assigned to ComSpecs for reporting lost and found items, in place of the use of mainline talk groups, which use valuable radio time with long reports. This suggestion allows for better use of the system. For their suggestion, Jeanne and Joe each received a cash award of \$75.00 and a letter of appreciation from Tom Margro.

20 Years of Service



BART employees who recently achieved 20 years of service include (kneeling, front row, left to right) Gregory Wong, Barry Lewis, Bill Davidson, Robert Renard, Otto Pfaeffle and Thom Pennewell; (back row, left to right) David Adams, Patricia Terry, James Evans, Gregory Suzukawa, Mary Hetrick, Scott Fanning and Stephen Denegri. b2

In Remembrance...



Jim Plaisance, our co-worker and friend passed away, on April 15, after bravely fighting cancer.

Jim had been the Assistant Superintendent, Concord Shop. He had a 25-year career with BART. "Jim loved BART," remembers Steve Baldi, Operations Supervisor Concord Line, Jim's co-worker, longtime friend, and neighbor. "He was a good guy to work with. I will think about him for the rest of my life," says Steve.

Jim Wiscarson, Superintendent, Concord Shop, Jim's supervisor, knew Jim for 12 years, recalls how he kept employees toolled up with what they needed. "He was a very loyal employee and knew his priorities. He was proud of the Shop expansion and a big part of its design."

A memorial service was held on May 7 at Saint Anthony's Catholic Church. Jim's family, BART family, and friends attended.

Jim was born in Louisiana 52 years ago and was very proud of his Cajun heritage. Each year he would hold a Mardi Gras party in his home, catering in authentic Cajun food. Prior to joining BART, he was in the Navy, served on an aircraft carrier, and worked on jet airplanes. He worked for World Airways.

Jim had many hobbies including building hot rods, attending many car shows, and woodworking (making furniture). "He was a Southern gentleman," recalls Steve. "On Saturdays, he could be found cruising the neighborhood in his straw hat, carrying his coffee cup, talking with the neighbors, and helping them with their projects."

Jim is survived by his loving wife Vickie and his sister.

Linda Jimenez, our friend and co-worker passed away from cancer on March 17. She faced her illness with dignity and strength.

Linda had been the Tool Room Attendant in the Vehicle Shop for the past 20 years. "She was a generous, caring, and loving woman," says Ron Servin, a dear friend and co-worker. "She knew everyone, and always had a kind word."

Linda will also be remembered for her eccentricity and sense of humor. "When I met Linda back in the late 70's, she had orange hair," recalls Ron. "The next time I saw her (when she and I were in the same shop), she had green hair. For my wedding she came with orange hair yet again." She was known to always have a coffee stain on her blouse. "We loved her and are going to miss her," says Ron.

Those who knew Linda have many "Linda Stories" to recall. There was the time she lost a cap on her tooth, tried to glue it with superglue, and glued her gum to her cheek, lasting a few days; or the time when she fell into the dumpster, jumping up and down, laughing and calling for help.

As she knew her passing was imminent, she retired from BART, and attended her retirement dinner one-week prior to her death. She personally planned her memorial to be on a Saturday, so that all her friends would be able to attend.

Linda is survived by her loving mother, and her step-brother.

Pat Lamb, our co-worker and friend passed away peacefully at home, on April 2. Pat had been with BART for 15 years, and left in 1987, after her beloved husband, Chuck Lamb, passed on.

Several years ago, Pat decided to build what was to be Chuck's and her dream house in Sonora. "She continued with the dream designing every feature of her home right down to the light sockets," says Sue VanNorsdall, a co-worker and friend of 20 years. "She was a fantastic cook, always serving great meals at her house for family and friends. Meal times were a special quality time at her house for everyone. She always made you feel so special. She also had a cute sense of humor. We went camping with Pat and the next morning Pat popped out of her tent in an all-white outfit, from hat down to her shoes. Needless to say, she was pretty dirty by the end to the day," remembers Sue.

Funeral services were held on April 9 at the Chapel of the Chimes. Family, friends, co-workers, and her companion of several years came together to remember Pat, the woman, wife, mother, and friend she was to all who knew her. "Pat was always thinking of others," states Ken Perez, another dear friend. "She loved her cabin in Sonora. It was home for her and she enjoyed having friends over."

Cathy Pratt, co-worker and friend, hosted a lunch buffet in her home, to honor Pat.

Pat wrote a letter sometime before her death. The letter was for those she loved, asking them all to enjoy life to its fullest. That is how she shall be remembered.

We extend our condolences to Jim, Linda, and Pat's loved ones. **b**

15 Years of Service



BART employees who recently achieved 15 years with the District include (left to right) Patricia Gallagher, Al Mayfield, Desha Hill, Kurt Allen, Julie Yim, Shirley Nakao and Mahmood Sarvi. **b**


Just Ducky

Robert Fail of BART's Building Maintenance & Rescue Squad was called into action Sunday morning, June 3. A baby duckling had fallen into the drain gate at the North Concord/Martinez station parking lot. Mama Duck was flying in near hysterics, squawking for her baby.

Robert called upon George Hodgerney, who entered the drain but couldn't find the duckling. Robert fearing that the duckling would die if not removed from the drain, went down himself. Seeing the duckling but unable to reach it, Robert went to the other side of the drain, which was located in a neighbor's

yard. The residents were kind enough to allow Bob and George entry into their yard. As he went to grab the duckling it jumped over a bender board right into a trap that had been set by Animal control. Once in the trap, Robert scooped the cute little thing and pulled it out.

As Robert said, "it's a great day – makes life worth living."

Mama and baby were just ducky. 



Pictures from top to bottom:

1. Animal Control and BART Police arrive. The neighbor's yard is just behind the wall on the right.

2. Had to go through neighbor's yard in order to obtain access to drain.

3. The open grate that the duckling fell through.

4. The precious cargo recovered safe and sound.



Orphan looking for a new home.

1985 Honda Civic. Great commute car! Runs good. New clutch, new tires. Must see to appreciate. \$1,050 or B/O.

Call Mike at ext. 7110.

Cabin for Rent in Twain Harte Area.

Two blocks to private beach & horse area (paddle & rowboats, slide off dock). Nearby lakes for boating, fishing and river rafting. Historic parks & caves nearby. Snow ski in winter. Fully equipped, sleeps 8. \$175/week-end, \$65/weekday, \$400/week. Call Sue at ext. 2601 or 925/828-4636.

Breathtaking View and Sunsets!

Townhouse for rent in Lake Tahoe. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, fully furnished and equipped. Half-mile to casinos, nightlife, golf course, beach, ski slopes, etc. Located in Lake Village, NV adjacent to the national forests for great walks and hiking. \$225-300 per day. Call Ted at 510/659-7947.

*Time to clean out those drawers, closets and garages! BARTalk's Trash and Treasures column offers you an opportunity to pick up some extra cash for those unwanted items you no longer need. Send your ads – no telephone calls – to **Trash & Treasures**, BARTalk, LMA-1; E-mail to [vwillis](mailto:vwillis@bartalk.com); or Fax to 510-464-7118.*

BARTalk 800 Madison Street
Oakland, CA 94607

A publication for and about the employees of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District

Thomas E. Margro
General Manager

Mike Healy
Department Manager
Media & Public Affairs

Vicki L. Wills
Editor, BARTalk

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